

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



MASTER SYLLABUS

FSAD 307 – Human Response to Death

CIP Code:

(12.0302) Funeral Direction/Services

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Updated by: October 25, 2023**

**Science, Health and Criminal Justice
Funeral Services Administration
Spring 2025**

- A. **TITLE: Human Response to Death**
- B. **COURSE NUMBER: FSAD 307**
- C. **CREDIT HOURS (Hours of Lecture, Laboratory, Recitation, Tutorial, Activity):**

Credit Hours:4
Lecture Hours per Week:3
Lab Hours per Week:2
Other per Week: 0

Course Length (# of Weeks): 15

- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE: No**
- E. **GER CATEGORY:**
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED: Spring**
- G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a survey of the psychological, philosophical, and sociological components of human loss and grief. Students will also learn how to complete required funeral service paperwork, as well as how to conduct removals, first calls, arrangements, and funerals. Students will learn social, cultural, and religious funeral standards and requirements.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**

- a. Pre-requisite(s): Enrollment into FSAD program; SSCI 315 Death, Dying and Bereavement; and FSAD 225 Professional Funeral Practice; or permission from instructor
- b. Co-requisite(s): None
- c. Pre- or co-requisite(s): None

- I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**
Upon completion of this course, the student will:

Student Learning Outcome [SLO]	Program Student Learning Outcomes [PSLO]	Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO]
1. The student will analyze, evaluate, and implement proper funeral protocol, paperwork, disposition, preparation, and arrangements based on various funeral clientele including but not limited to individuals from different social, cultural, and religious backgrounds.	2.1.1 Explain the importance of funeral service professionals in developing relationships with the families and communities they serve.	4. Social Responsibility- Intercultural
2. The student will complete a mock first call, mock arrangements, mock celebrant assignment, mock paperwork, and a mock funeral.	2.1.6 Demonstrate skills required for conducting arrangement conferences, visitations, services, and ceremonies.	2. Critical Thinking - Problem solving

J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT: Yes No

If Yes, select one or more of the following categories:

Classroom/Lab

Internship

Clinical Practicum

Practicum

Service Learning

Community Service

Civic Engagement

Creative Works/Senior Project

Research

Entrepreneurship

(program, class, project)

K. TEXTS:

Klicker, R. L. (2020a). *21st century funeral directing and Funeral Service Management*. Thanos Institute.

L. REFERENCES:

Penepent, D.R. (2024). *A complete guide to the Arts section of the National Board Exam for Funeral Services*. Anubis Publications Inc.

Ritchie, J. N. & A., & Jayanti, S. F.-T. and A. (2023, February 3). *Complying with the funeral rule*. Federal Trade Commission.
<https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/resources/complying-funeral-rule>

M. EQUIPMENT: Microsoft Word or a comparable software. Internet access is required.

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

The grading will be as follows:

Assignment Category

Grade Weight/ Point Distribution

Assignments	30%
Quizzes	40%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%
Total	100%

Your final grade will be calculated based on the following grading scheme:

NOTE: ALL FUNERAL SERVICE REQUIRED CORE COURSES A "C" OR HIGHER IS NEEDED TO PASS

From %	To %	Letter grade	
100	92.0	A	
91.9	87.0	B+	
86.9	83.0	B	
82.9	79.0	C+	
78.9	76.0	C	
75.9	69.0	D+	Required to retake the course.
68.9	60.0	D	Required to retake the course.
59.9	0	F	Required to retake the course.

This course can only be retaken once.

Once enrolled in the Funeral Services Administration program, students must complete the course of study within six (6) years. FSAD courses that are (6) years or older must be retaken because the American Board of Funeral Service Education revises the course outlines every seven years.

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

12 Assignments
6 Quizzes
Midterm Exam
Comprehensive Final Exam

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

- I. The Sociology of Funeral Services & Ethics
- II. The Psychology of Grief
- III. The First Call
 - A. Arrangement Conference
 - B. Paperwork
- IV. Types of Final Disposition
 - A. Merchandise
 - B. GPL and the Federal Trade Commission
 - C. Green/Natural burials
 - D. Military Funerals
- V. Christian Services
 - A. Catholic
 - B. Protestant
 - C. Eastern Orthodox
 - D. Church of Christian Science
- VI. Jewish and Islamic Funerals
- VII. Buddhist, Baha'I, Jehovah Witness, Amish, Mennonite Funerals
- VIII. Mormon Funerals,
- IX. Themed Funerals, Humanistic/Adaptive Funerals
- X. Memorialization, Personalization, and Celebrants
- XI. Fraternal Organizations
- XII. Shipping Decedents
- XIII. Disaster Management
- XIV. Burnout in the funeral home
- XV. Aftercare

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE:

The Human Response to Death laboratory is designed to prepare students on how to handle a full funeral case. Each student will be assigned a specific case and throughout the duration of the lab will:

- Conduct a first call
- Conduct the arrangement conference
- Set-up for the funeral
- Conduct the mock funeral
- Create a clergy/celebrant program for the funeral service
- Complete all required paperwork for the case
- Write an obituary for the case

Note* Virtual/Online students will complete a checklist of items in the funeral home to be signed off by their supervisor in addition to other lab requirements.

All funeral homes must be approved by the Program Director, and in good standing with the Bureau of Funeral Directing.